

**Minutes of Langley Library Board Meeting  
Thursday, June 12th, 2008**

The Langley Library board meeting was called to order by President Linda Beeman at 5:32 p.m. Present were Linda Beeman, Becky Bolte, Molly Cook, Bob Waterman, Diane Watson and Vicky Welfare. Absent: Jim Tully. Cheryl Telford, Director of Community Libraries and Technology for Sno-Isle and Art Peterson of the Sno-Isle Trustees attended as guests.

Linda asked for any corrections or additions to the March minutes. There being none, she made a motion that they be adopted. Bob Waterman seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Linda said that Mayor Samuelson had written the board to advise us that the City Council had approved an expenditure of up to \$5,000 for recarpeting the library.

Linda said that, while she and Jim Tully had not realized their terms of office had expired in January, Mayor Samuelson's Assistant Kathleen Landell spotted the oversight. Both Linda and Jim would like to renew their terms of office, and the Council has approved new terms for each of them that will expire in February, 2011.

Two Langley women - Leah Green and Marilyn Saunders - have expressed an interest in serving on the board. Linda said she, Mayor Samuelson, and Council member Renie Neff interviewed each candidate in the past week. Both were strong candidates, and Linda believes the Mayor will submit their names to the next Council meeting for approval.

Linda welcomed our guests, and asked what they would like to report to us. Cheryl said it was good to be back in Langley. She was Sno-Isle's regional manager for the island in the past. Cheryl said that creating the strategic plan has been a dynamic process. Sno-Isle wants the plan to be a living, changing document, so has solicited input from their 21-member communities. The Planning Committee then assessed how to best to utilize that information.

Now staff and trustees are returning to the communities to vet the plan they've developed. They intend that the strategic plan should mesh with the capital facilities plan and have assessed the system's needs as follows: 1) more library space; 2) remodeling; 3) expanding; 4) building new facilities. Cheryl said that increased living costs = increased library use.

Sno-Isle has found that their public wants easy-to-use Web sites. In response, they upgraded their site. Programs for all ages are a continued focus, but especially programs for adults. Sno-Isle's clients need good, skilled staff assistance. They want

expanded collaboration with schools because local school districts are closing libraries and/or reducing library staff. Clients would like expanded library hours and computer access.

Cheryl asked what we thought was a reasonable amount of time to wait for a requested book. Most of the board thought 1-2 weeks was appropriate. She asked if we had to make a choice between having a large number of titles or many copies of a popular book, which would we choose. Without exception, we wanted more titles.

She said the demand for DVDs, CDs is growing and asked what alternate materials would we like to see here? Vicky said CDs are popular here in Langley. Diane remarked that our computers are heavily used. Cheryl asked about expanded hours. Linda and Molly said that a 10am opening would be helpful. Bob remarked that, if only one weekend day was feasible, Saturday would be better than Sunday. Becky said families often come to the library on Sunday.

Cheryl asked what role the library plays in enhancing education. Molly said our library was a community focus for education. Bob said that review of the comp plan revealed that people want a venue for adult education seminars. He thought the library might be that sort of center. Molly mentioned life-long learning programs. Diane said she was especially interested in adult literacy. Cheryl said Sno-Isle focuses on the “under-served” community.

Cheryl wondered if we should set time limits on computer use? Which organizations should the library collaborate with? We thought our current 2-hour limit for computers was generous, and that historical societies, schools and arts organizations were perfect partners for us.

Art summed up by referring to the strategic plan as “beautiful step ladder.” He said outreach was and would continue to be critical to Sno-Isle.

**New Business.** Vicky reported that Sheila McCue from City Hall returned a painting they'd had for years. She conferred with Seattle dealer David Martin, who confirmed it was a Margaret Camfferman. He informally valued it at \$5,000. Vicky asked if we would like to reframe it or what we should do. Bob suggested a location for hanging it above a First Street wall reading area, and Molly concurred. Linda will check with Friends of the Library to see if they will finance reframing the floral oil painting, and Vicky will confer with Sheila regarding a written appraisal. Bob will check whether the City insurance policies cover the three Camfferman paintings we own.

Vicky also said that a regular client with health issues volunteered he was willing to provide a special chair for people with back issues. We asked Vicky to thank him for his offer, but let him know questions about space and the chair's use raise additional

questions. Vicky will also tell him that Sno-Isle leaders participated in the conversation and will take the issue back to their board.

Linda asked if everyone had received the proposed changes to our by-laws that would bring them into conformance with Langley's new city ordinance that standardized procedures for city boards and commissions. She read through the changes and asked if there were any comments or suggestions. Diane said she appreciated the fact that we would have both a board member who would act as our liaison with the City, and a staff member assigned to help us with procedural questions. There being no further comments, Bob Waterman moved that we adopt the proposed by-law changes as read. Diane Watson seconded the motion. **The board voted unanimously to adopt the proposed changes in their By-laws.**

**Langley Librarian Report.** Vicky reported that circulation is up slightly from last April and the door count increased dramatically by 19% over last year. This may be due to more accurate counting procedures. Our children's summer reading program is starting now, kicking off with Insect Safari on June 27<sup>th</sup> and culminating with an Imagination Safari celebration on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Teens are invited to participate in their own version of summer reading by writing online book reviews. This month's Langley book discussion group title is *Girl in Hyacinth Blue*.

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual poetry night on June 7<sup>th</sup> featured Victory Shouten, Jane Winslow and Joni Takanikos. Chris Bojalian was hilarious, according to Vicky, at the Whidbey Reads event featuring his book *Midwives*.

**Sno-Isle Regional Manager Report.** Becky said that the Clinton Library had been revamped and opened as "browsing library" modeled after Camano with face out displays and multiple copies of popular items.

She said three Sno-Isle annexation initiatives passed recently, but the Arlington library bond failed to get a super majority. Becky reminded us of the Coupeville's election on August 19<sup>th</sup>. She urged we let friends in Greenbank or Coupeville know about it.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

LINDA BEEMAN